



Charlotte Mason's House of Education,
Scale How, Ambleside, UK, 2009

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THE "P.R." LETTER BAG.

[The Editor is not responsible for the opinions of Correspondents]

DEAR EDITOR,—Those of your readers not already acquainted with Mrs. Frewen Lord's "Tales from Westminster Abbey," or "Tales from St. Paul's," published at 1/- (Sampson, Low & Co.), will find them deeply interesting and full of useful historical information, not only respecting the buildings themselves, but the famous characters buried within their walls. The biographies are simply told and suitable for children.

J. B. S. THOMPSON.

DEAR EDITOR,—Those of your readers who like to provide some Sunday reading for the household, will find the magazine "Goodwill," edited by Mr. James Adderley, a most suitable, practical, and instructive one for the purpose. It is published monthly, at the cost of one penny, and, besides other illustrations, contains an excellent copy of an old master from the National Gallery. To be had of Messrs. Marshall, Keswick House, Paternoster Row, or Smiths' Bookstalls.

Truly yours, J. B. S. THOMPSON.

DEAR EDITOR,—My object in writing is to know whether you can tell me if I can obtain any of the books on the enclosed list, second-hand, from a Mother who has finished with them? I have all the *Parents' Review*, beginning with January, 1892, except the February number, which has got lost; but I should like to have a complete set.

Yours very sincerely, ELSIE WALKER

BOOKS WANTED.—The *Parents' Review*, from the beginning to December, 1891. The *Parents' Review*, for February, 1892. "Physiology," by Dr. Schofield. "Manual of Personal and Domestic Hygiene," by Dr. Schofield. "The Care of Infants," by Sophia Jex Blake, M.D. "Moral Training," by Miss Shirreff. Hooker's "Primer of Botany." "Primer of Geology" (Geikie). "First Year of Scientific Knowledge." John's "Field Flowers."

Address:—Mrs. Walker, The Elms, Wakefield.

DEAR EDITOR.—I have been reading lately the "Life of Miss Buss," by Miss Annie Ridley, and it has given me much to think about. Whatever may be the shortcomings of this book as a literary production, there cannot be two opinions about its interest and value to all educationalists.

In the district where I live, there are, I suppose, more boys and girls to the acre of a similar class to my own than in any other part of England, and to meet the needs of this army of youngsters one would expect to find corresponding educational facilities. But this is by no means the case at least as far as boys are concerned. My own, having reached the age of 8½, I set to work to find a school within easy reach of home where he could be prepared for one of the large public schools. But though there is a preparatory school in every road, with numbers varying from 12 to 100 boys

in each, it was impossible to find one that reached even the most moderate standard of what such a school should be. I finally sent him to the school that is generally considered the best in the neighbourhood, consisting of about 80 boys under a master, who held a very good record at one of our smaller public schools. But here, as in all the others, the school premises are merely an old private house adapted in some rough and ready fashion to its new purpose, with all the faults of lighting, ventilation, construction, and sanitary arrangements that might be expected in such a building. The master is exceedingly successful in preparing boys for scholarship at public schools, and devotes all his energies to that end, with the result that from 8 o'clock in the morning till 8 at night my unfortunate child has hardly a minute to call his own. He cannot possibly get through his homework without assistance, though by no means a dullard; and every evening I have to give him (or in my absence, the governess) two hours' hard grinding chiefly in the Latin accidence. Now Miss Buss writes of her boarders in a letter quoted in the "Life": "they finish at 7 o'clock, do no lessons before 9 in the morning, do none at all on Friday evenings, and always put away every bit of school work on Saturday at 12." I want, then, to know why boys must be treated worse than girls, in the matter of school hours and homework, and why there is not for them in every district, a school as scientifically equipped as the High Schools to which their sisters have been going for twenty years past.

I go farther, and ask why boys for whom 7 guineas and upwards per term is paid, besides "extras," should have to put up with schoolbuildings that would not be allowed to be used for a day for the free education of the poor? Why they should have to study for hours in low ill-ventilated, ill-lighted sitting-rooms, cramped on rough forms round a flat table, distorting their figures and damaging their eyes, instead of being provided with proper desks such as are supplied to our board schools?

We are anxious not to send him away from home at present, but unless we enter him at St Paul's or other similar school, thus wasting all his playtime on the Underground Railway, I do not see what else we can do.

February 12th, 1896.

PATER JUNIOR.

P.N.E.U. NOTES.

Edited by Miss FRANCES BLOGG, Sec., 28, Victoria Street, S.W.

To whom Hon. Local Secs. are requested to send reports of all matters of interest connected with their branches, also 30 copies of any prospectuses or other papers they may print.

The Library Committee acknowledge, with thanks, the gift of the following books by their authors:—

"History of the English Institutions." Chancellor P. V. Smith.

"Lessons on the Life of our Lord"; "Lessons on the Acts of the Apostles." Eugene Stock.

"Health at School"; "School Diet." Clement Dukes.
 "Stray Thoughts for Girls"; "Stray Thoughts for Teachers"; "Chapter and Verse"; and three Pamphlets. From Miss Soulsby.
 "Science Ladders" (6 Vols.) Mrs. Arthur Bell.
 "Heroes of Science" M. M. Pattison Muir, M.A.
 "Text-Book of English and General History"; "The Student's Chronological Maps of Ancient and Modern History." Miss Beale.
 "Petit Théâtre des Enfants"; "Théâtre de la jeunesse"; "French without Tears." Mrs. Hugh Bell.
 "The Message of Israel." Miss Julia Wedgwood.
 "The Duties of Women." Frances Power Cobbe.
 "Womankind." Miss Yonge.
 "Physiology for Schools"; "Personal and Domestic Hygiene." Dr. A. T. Schofield.
 "Fir Tree Farm"; "Mrs. Romaine's Household"; "Barbara's Brothers"; "Marcus Stratford's Charge." Miss E. E. Green.

Also of the following:—
 "The Times of Isaiah" (A. H. Sayce). Presented by Mrs. Anson.
 "Education of Girls and Employment of Women" (W. B. Hodgson). From Canon Liddell.
 "Human Physiology" (Parkyn); "Children" (Bacon); "Food and Nutrition" (Twining). From Dr. Schofield.

From Messrs. Longman, Green & Co.—"The Works of Joseph Payne" (2 Vols.); "Primer of Psychology" (Ladd); "Education of the Feelings" (C. Bray); "History of London" (Walter Besant); "Principles of Education" (2 Vols.).

From Messrs. Kegan, Paul & Co.—"School Management" (Joseph Landon); "Old Greek Education" (J. P. Mahaffy); "Educational Theories" (Oscar Browning); "Industrial Education" (Sir Philip Magnus).

From Swan, Sonnenschein & Co.—"Some Geography of England and Wales" (Philips Bevan); Arithmetic (Sonnenschein & Nesbit); "Systematic Cutting-out" (Eley Brand); "An Introduction to the Study of Zoology" (B. Lindsay); School Geography (Kischoff & Sonnenschein); "British Butterflies, Moths and Beetles" (Kirby); "Land and Fresh-water Shells" (J. W. Williams); "Hand-book of Mosses" (Baynall); "Collective Lessons in Plain Needlework and Knitting" (Helen Brietzcke and Emily Rooper); "Introduction to Political Economy" (Ely); "A B C of Arithmetic," Exercise Book I. and II., Teachers' Book I. and II.; "English Word Formation" (Frank Ritchie); Answers to Sonnenschein's and Nesbit's Arithmetic; two Exercise Books, one German Copy Book, and Ciphering Book.

BELGRAVIA.—Miss Soulsby's lecture on "What to do with our Girls," given on January 24th, at 35, Cranley Gardens (by kind permission of Mrs. Pym), was most helpful and interesting, and greatly appreciated by an audience of about eighty members and their friends. Mr. Guy Pym, M.P. (Chairman), opened a discussion on the subject, which was continued in a spirited manner by several ladies present. On the 26th inst., Canon Scott Holland will give an address on the subject of "Goads," at 50, Ennismore

Gardens (by the kindness of Mrs. Farrer). A course of six lectures on "Psychology" will be given on Tuesdays, at three o'clock (commenced February 25th). A course of Singing Lessons (Tonic Sol-fa) to young children are being given on Saturday mornings. Classes for Wood-Carving, Modelling in Clay, and French Conversation, are also arranged.

HYDE PARK AND BAYSWATER.—January 21st, Mdlle. Duriaux gave a most inspiring and delightful lecture on "Language Teaching" to an enthusiastic audience of about seventy members and friends. She explained the Gouin method, as altered and enlarged by herself, after three years' experience in teaching on that method. At the end of the lecture Mdlle. Duriaux gave a demonstration lesson to four beginners, and also to four boys, whom she had taught for one-and-a-half hours a week for two school years. The pupils were able to follow the whole lesson, given in French. Mdlle. Duriaux announced the formation of Training Classes for teachers, and lessons to children and adults. On February 11th a "Reading Circle" was held at the Secretary's house, when Mrs. Holroyd Chaplin read a paper on "Girls coming out"; after which the last chapter in "Home Education" was read and discussed. On March 10th Professor Boulger will lecture on "Trees of London," at 5 p.m., at 43, Ladbroke Square (by kind permission of Mrs. Cracroft). Tea and coffee at 4.30. On March 17th, at 9, Pembroke Gardens, Mrs. Franklin will read a paper, "That imagination increases with the increase of knowledge," to the Reading Circle and Debating Society.

HAMPSTEAD.—On February 12th a lecture was given at 74, Fitzjohn's Avenue (by the kindness of Dr. and Mrs. Pidcock), by Miss Wells, A.F.S., on "Expediency *versus* Development in Education." The chair was taken by T. Garrod, Esq. (Hon. Sec., C Division of The Teachers' Guild). The next paper will be given on March 20th, by Francis Bond, Esq., M.A., F.G.S., on "What not to Teach."

WOODFORD AND WANSTEAD.—The first lecture of the session was held on February 20th, at Leytonstone, when the Rev. W. Manning invited the branch to hear a lecture by Mrs. Franklin (Bayswater), on "Formation of habit and cultivation of will." Mrs. Emil Behnke has promised to lecture this month at Wanstead, on "Voice production for children in speaking and singing."

CLAPHAM.—On January 20th a very successful and well-attended meeting was held at Elm House (by kind invitation of Miss Penfold). The Rev. C. P. Greene read a paper on "Patriotism," and invited discussion as to the advisability of cultivating patriotism in young children. A long and animated discussion ensued. The February Reading Circle was held at 15, Victoria Road (by kind invitation of Mrs. Mackenzie Evans). Mrs. Burgess took the chair and led an earnest discussion on "The Divine Life of the child" (Home Education).

READING.—One of the most successful meetings was held on February 4th, at the Abbey Hall (by kind permission of Messrs. Sutton & Sons), and there was a good attendance of members and friends. The first business was the formation of a Natural History Club for children and adults in connection with the Union. On the motion of Miss Hart Davis (on behalf of Mrs. Hart Davis, who was unable to be present), seconded

by Mr. W. Salmon, a small committee was elected, with Miss Clara Strachan as Hon. Secretary of the Club. Mr. Hamn, naturalist, was present with a fine collection of specimens, which were much admired. A paper was then contributed by Mr. Hastings Gilford, F.R.C.S., on "Children's Faults," which was followed by remarks from several ladies and gentlemen, including Miss Blogg, from the Central Office. Tea and coffee were kindly provided by Mrs. F. E. Williams. A vote of thanks to Dr. Shettle (who presided), to the Lecturer, to Mrs. Williams, and to Messrs. Sutton & Sons was proposed by the Rev. R. H. Hart Davis. The next meeting will be held on March 28th, at Burlington House, when Mrs. Franklin will lecture on "The Natural History Club."

HASTINGS.—On March 28th, at three p.m., at Miss Tiddeman's Studio, a lecture will be given by Dr. E. Downes, of Eastbourne, on "Backward Children." Lewis Ward, Esq., chairman.

SCARBOROUGH.—By kind invitation of the Bishop of Hull and Mrs. Blount, a second meeting was held at the Vicarage Room, when T. G. Rooper, Esq., read a most interesting paper on "Gaiety in Education." The paper was a literary treat, and full of suggestive thought. The Bishop of Hull and other members added a few remarks.

FOLKESTONE.—Dr. Percy read a paper on February 13th, on "Some Medical Aspects of Education." Mrs. Spencer Curwen will lecture this month on "Educational Principles applied to Pianoforte Teaching." Miss Helen Webb has kindly consented to address this branch on May 8th, on "The Treatment of Neurotic Children."

LEEDS.—On February 7th Mrs. Miall read a most interesting and instructive address on "Play." On March 12th (by kind permission of Mrs. Mayo Robson), two papers on "Children's Books," by Mrs. Camunt and Mrs. Peters, will be read and discussed. On March 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th, Miss Simpson will give a course of lectures to children on "Signs of Spring." Fee for the course:—Adults 3/-, Children 2/-.

EDINBURGH.—A drawing-room meeting was held at 27, Moray Place (by kind invitation of Mrs. Trayner). Dr. George Wilson's lecture on "Repressed Initiative in Children" was exceptionally interesting and suggestive. Sir Arthur Mitchell was in the chair, and the audience numbered about 100 ladies and gentlemen. The Rev. H. Y. Wotherspoon, M.A., delivered an address on "The Religious Teaching of Children," on February 14th.

BROUGHTY FERRY.—Miss Julia Wedgwood's paper on "Maternal Self-Sacrifice, true and false," was much enjoyed. Dr. Emily Thompson has kindly promised to give the next lecture on some "health" subject.

(For list of branches and addresses of Local Hon. Secs. see advertisements.)

(Parcels of Back Numbers for distribution can be obtained from the Secretary, at the rate of ten copies for 1/-, or 7/6 per 100, carriage paid.)

THE PARENTS' REVIEW

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE

OF HOME-TRAINING AND CULTURE.

"Education is an atmosphere, a discipline, a life."

REPRESSED INITIATIVE IN CHILDREN.

BY G. R. WILSON, M.B.

BY this time it will, I trust, be clear to you that to study the human mind in never so confined an aspect is to touch upon the whole of human life. That is one of the permanent interests of Psychology—the science of the mind—that the whole of our experience seems to be represented in any one department of it; so that, if we abstract any function or faculty, and restrict our attention to that as a unit or subject, we still find ourselves thinking about nearly everything. In other words, if we choose to consider, let us say, the memory or the will, we find that we can express the whole of our character—feeling, thinking, and acting—in terms of memory or in terms of will. There is a peculiar danger then lurking in this fascinating manner assumed by psychological subjects, which is apt to seduce us into thinking that we have laid bare the whole mystery, when in reality we have only concentrated light on a very fragmentary corner. Do not imagine therefore that in an hour, or in twenty hours, we can get a true view of the child mind. Nay, let us rather say that we cannot even know a part of mind; because in a very true sense, mind has no parts. Mind is indivisible. We see it in a thousand aspects, no one of which may be thought of apart from the rest. What we call will is the mind acting; it is still the mind. What we call memory is the mind remembering; it is still the mind. What we call initiative is the mind willing in a peculiar way; it is still the mind.

Now the mind in its initiative activity is peculiarly